19.8.2004, the excise duty on domestic LPG was further reduced by 4 per cent. The Government also reduced customs duty by 5 per cent each on PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG with effect from 19.8.2004. In the Budget 2005-06, custom duty on domestic LPG and PDS Kerosene was reduced from 5 per cent to Nil and excise duty on these products was reduced to Nil.

Meanwhile, to ensure availability of kerosene and reduce diversion, Government have approved an innovating pilot project for radically revamping the PDS kerosene distribution network with the primary objective of ensuring that this heavily subsidized product is actually made available in the required quantities at subsidized prices to the intended beneficiaries; and, secondly, to thus cap, revese and eventually eliminate the diversion of PDS kerosene for adulteration. The pilot project is to be implemented in 10 per cent of the blocks of the country for a period of six months. Thereafter, the working of the scheme would be independently assessed and, based on the experience gained, Government will consider scaling up the scheme to cover the entire country. It has hoped that the implementation of this project will lead to a significant breakthrough in the delivery of subsidized SKO to the entitled segments of society and thus contribute to the curbing diversion for adulteration.

Government is constantly monitoring the price situation with a view to implementing the appropriate remedial options including making the subsidies transparent.

World Heritage Sites

*398. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of revenue earned by each prominent and World Heritage Sites and the amount spent for their maintenance and renovation every year;

(b) the steps taken by Government to attract more tourists, both domestic and foriegn, to the tourist sites in the current year; and

(c) whether such steps have yielded the desired results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) The details of revenue earned

and amount spent for the maintenance of prominent and World Heritage Sites by the Archaeological Survey of India is as under:

(Rs. in crore)

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Revenue earned	30.51	43.60	52.89
Expenditure incurred	80.34	107.06	115.95

(b) The Ministry of Culture has been taking several steps to make the monuments more attractive and visitor friendly. Ministry of Tourism under its schemes of Infrastructrue development assists State Governments in creating world class tourist infrastructure at the prominent sites including World Heritage Sites, by way of improving of landscaping, development of Parks, illumination, signages etc.

(c) There has been a marked improvement in the infrastructure in and around the monuments all over the country which has also led to increase in revenue generation and tourist arrivals.

Empowering Ombudsmen to look into complaints of credit card holders

*399. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Ombudsmen working under RBI;

(b) whether it is a fact that RBI propose to empower Ombudsmen to look into complaints of aggrieved credit card holders against banks indulging in unfair practices like imposing service charges even when the card is not used, etc; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that there are 15 Banking Ombudsman Offices located throughout the country.

(b) and (c) Certain amendments to the Banking Ombudsman Scheme, 2002 are presently under consideration of the Reserve Bank of India.